



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/17/2015

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: 329

Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 022 REQUESTING THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE THE BEST PRACTICES FOR COLLECTING, STORING, AND SHARING DATA ON HOMELESS YOUTH.

**Purpose of
Resolution:**

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HCR 22 which requests that the Interagency Council on Homelessness convene a working group to determine best practices for collecting data and maximize efforts across agencies to better identify and support homeless youth.

A coordinated comprehensive needs assessment and data will enable the Department to meaningfully contribute to the statewide plan and expand our support of over 2200 homeless children and youth.

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 22.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Robert Olague, President
Judith F. Clark, Executive Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
Bay Clinic, Inc.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu
Big Island Substance Abuse Council
Blueprint for Change
Bobby Benson Center
Catholic Charities Hawaii
Child and Family Service
Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii
Domestic Violence Action Center
EPIC, Inc.
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Hale Kipa, Inc.
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.
Hawaii Behavioral Health
Hawaii Student Television
Hina Mauka Teen Care
Hui Malama Learning Center
Ka'anali
KEY (Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth)
Project
Kokua Kalihi Valley
Life Foundation
Marimed Foundation
Maui Youth and Family Services
Palama Settlement
P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.
Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Susannah Wesley Community Center
The Catalyst Group
The Children's Alliance of Hawaii
Waikiki Health Center
Women Helping Women
YWCA of Kauai

March 12, 2015

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

**HCR 14 REQUESTING THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON
HOMELESSNESS TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO
DETERMINE THE BEST PRACTICES FOR COLLECTING,
STORING, AND SHARING DATA ON HOMELESS YOUTH**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports HCR 22 Requesting the Interagency Council on Homelessness to Convene a Working Group to Determine the Best Practices for Collecting, Storing, and Sharing Data on Homeless Youth.

Unaccompanied runaway and homeless youth are the least recognized group in Hawaii's homeless population, yet they are the most vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Each year, street outreach programs conducted on Oahu, Maui, and the island of Hawaii encounter more than 800 youth who are living on the street without support or guidance from family or guardians.

These youth have left home due to serious family problems such as child abuse or neglect or as a result of untreated mental health and substance abuse needs.

Youth living on the streets are at risk of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and exploitation. It is difficult for them to attend school. They often lack adequate nutrition and medical care.

They are negatively impacted by police enforcement of the "sidewalk laws" that are designed to make homeless persons less visible in tourist and business areas. As a result of these laws, youth have lost identification and medications when their backpacks are confiscated for being stored on the sidewalk next to where they were sitting. It has become more difficult to reach out to the youth since they are becoming harder to find and more suspicious of adults.

We strongly agree that better data is needed for this population and that government agencies that work with the homeless need to share data and resources.

The membership of the working group fails to include the non-profit organizations that provide emergency shelter and other services to runaway and homeless youth. HYSN strongly recommends an amendment to the resolution to include the following organizations:

- **Hawaii Youth Services Network**
- **Hale Kipa**
- **Maui Youth and Family Services**
- **Salvation Army Family Intervention Services**
- **Hale `Opio Kauai**
- **Waikiki Health**
- **Family Support Hawaii.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith F. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judith" being the most prominent part.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

kobayashi2-Lynda

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 10:15 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: tasymons56@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR22 on Mar 17, 2015 11:00AM*

HCR22

Submitted on: 3/12/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Symons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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kobayashi2-Lynda

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 10:39 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR22 on Mar 17, 2015 11:00AM

HCR22

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Tracking the homeless youth rate in Hawaii is vital to understanding what their needs are and how to respond !

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